



The Duke of Manchester in Uniform.

By the Duke of Manchester

Written Especially for This Newspaper.

I HAVE been asked "Are dukes and lords of any use to a country?" A perfectly fair question.

To my mind they are invaluable assets—the Great Britain at least. It would sound almost a self evident proposition that a class brought up for generation after generation with an assured position, a tradition of intense patriotism and loyalty, a habit of command and the instinctive respect of their fellow countrymen, is a very tangible asset for a State to draw on for its public service.

The whole history of the country proves it from Magna Charta to the present war. Look where you will in our history, in the annals of our statecraft, our diplomacy, our army, our navy, our Colonial Administration, our colonization itself, and history will give the justification of the aristocracy.

I don't say there have been no black sheep among them, but many of the black sheep have held up their end not ingloriously at the last and died on the frontier of Empire.

"Because on the bones of the English,  
The English flag is stayed."

I do not say that they produce more genius than any other class; genius is an exotic growth, but I do say that for a high level of administrative ability, for strict sense of duty, for intense, if often silent, patriotism; the British aristocracy is, in the words of the hunting song:

"A good 'un to follow,  
A bad 'un to beat."

I could go on for pages citing name after name, each of which speaks loudly of the great deeds of the past, and show how generation after generation has carried on the traditions of the founder of the house; not always in a spectacular way, but leaving their offering of solid stone, built in the edifice of the British Empire. Remember the facade and embellishments are not the only fine parts of a building; the foundations, each separate stone in the walls and piers, are as important and as integral a part of the whole as the most ornate pilaster.

It seems to me that if you set apart a breed, chosen originally for outstanding ability of its ancestors, and generation by generation add to them much of what is best, most forceful and strongest and most successful in the particular line they are needed for, you must predispose that breed to ability in that line. It is so in every other branch of the animal and vegetable kingdom; it is so in Eastern countries where trades and professions are hereditary, and why not in England?

The lines the aristocracy are reared for are government, diplomacy and fighting—in short, command—and you don't have to do more than ask the subordinates of most of them their opinion of whether they can do it, to

# Are Dukes and Lords of Any Real Use to a Country?

## His Grace the Duke of Manchester Cites England's Titled War Heroes to Prove That "a Breed Chosen Originally for Outstanding Ability" Must Inherit That Ability

find out whom they will choose to be led by.

But in these latter years we have heard accusations that the aristocracy was degenerate and effete, outworn and soft fibred through generations of luxury. If ever a nice catch word was ruthlessly swept away, if ever a class was triumphantly vindicated, it has been in these dark and terrible months since August, 1914, when our country has been at death grips with the most wonderful war machine the world has ever seen.

There was no need for recruiting campaigns; there was no need for conscription to bring the aristocracy forward to defend England from the first. When many a workman's house knew only through higher pay and the press of the war, hundreds of homes of the nobility were mourning the loss of sons, brothers, cousins—dead, wounded, blinded, maimed.

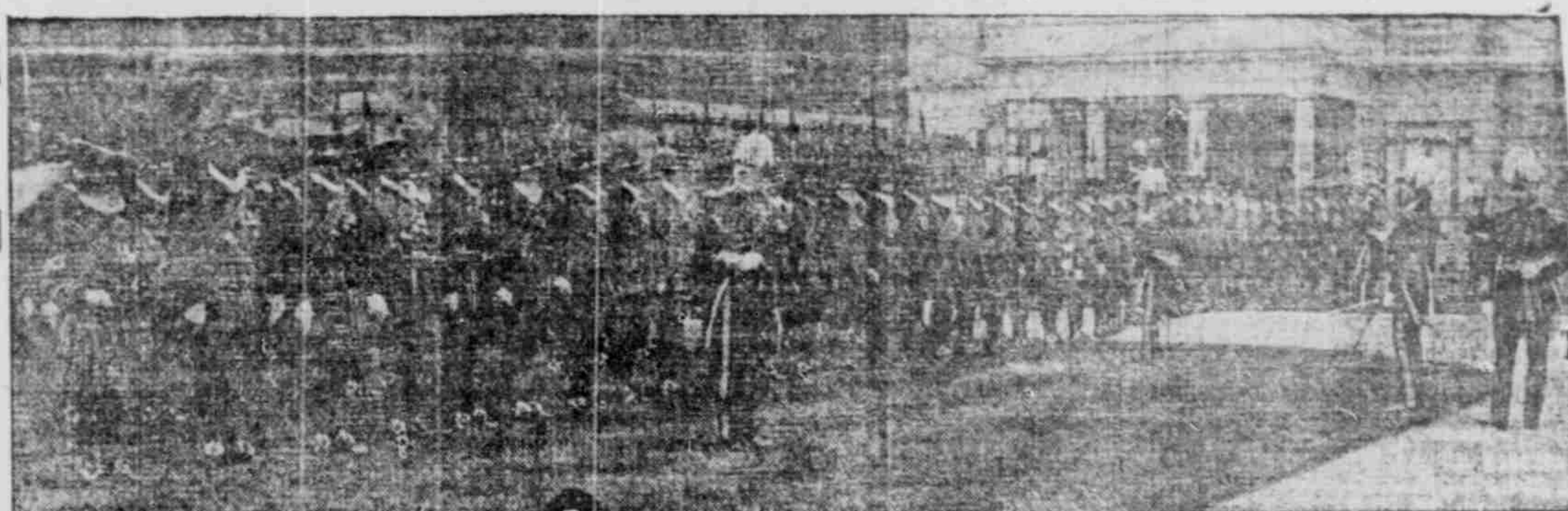
I don't believe the most rigid form of conscription would find one single member of the English aristocracy to take at this minute. I don't believe there is a single male member of the British aristocracy able to drag himself about, over eighteen and under sixty (and indeed many over) who is not in Government employ or working for the Government in some capacity.

I don't know of any woman of the aristocracy who is not working to her uttermost capacity in some way for the country. I don't know of an aristocratic home in any way suitable that has not been offered to the Government for nursing home, convalescent home, hospital or other useful object.

They talk about the privileges of the aristocracy, the right of peers—six hundred and forty-one of them, I believe—to sit in the House of Lords as hereditary legislators, for such peers to be arrested only for indictable offences, to be tried, if accused of felony or treason, by their peers in the House of Lords, and, if condemned to death, to be hanged by a silken rope.

But there is one privilege which they have always had and which now, as in the past, they have availed them-

The Duke of Manchester at the Head of the King's Bodyguard.



The Beautiful Viscountess Masereene, Now Working as a War Nurse.

The Duke of Manchester Declares

That Every Member of a Noble Family in England, Man or Woman, Is Now in the Service of the Country, If Physically Able to Serve



selves of greedily, and that is the right to lead the way in offering themselves and all they have and are for the defence of the country.

This list lies before me in a newspaper as I write—forty-five heirs to the British peerage who have either been killed or died of wounds or illness contracted while in active service since the war began—and this list is not a complete one:

Peer	Heir	Corps
Aberdare, Lord	Bruce, Capt. Hon. H. L.	3rd R. Scots.
Amherst of Hackney, Lord	Cecil, Capt. W. A.	Grenadier Gds.
Aylesford, Earl of	Guernsey, Capt. Lord	Irish Gds.
Balfour of Burleigh, Lord	Burleigh, Capt. Master of	A. and S. Highrs.
Bath, Marquess of	Weymouth, Sec. Lt. Viscount	2nd Dragoon
Bridport, Viscount	Hood, Lt. Hon. M. H. N.	Hood Bn. R. N. D.
Castletewart, Earl	Stuart, Lt. Viscount	6th R. Scots Fus.
Clifden, Lord	Agar-Robartes, Capt. T. C.	1st Coldstream Gds.
de Blaquieres, Lord	T. C. R. M. P.	2nd Cameronians
de Ramsey, Lord	de Blaquieres, Lt. Hon. J.	1st Life Guards
Desborough, Lord	Fellowes, Capt. Hon. G. C.	1st (Royal) Dragoon
Desborough, Lord	Grenfell, Capt. Hon. J. D. S.	1st Rifle Brigade
Dunleath, Lord	Grenfell, Lt. Hon. G. W. H.	Irish Guards
Goschen, Viscount	Mulholland, Capt. Hon. A. E. S.	5th Buffs
Hamilton of Dalzell, Lord	Goschen, Lt. Hon. G. J.	Coldstream Gds.
Hardinge, Lord	Hamilton, Maj. Hon. L. d'H.	2nd Rifle Brig.
Hardinge of Penshurst, Lord	M. V. O.	15th Hussars
Hillingdon, Lord	Hardinge, Sec. Lt. Hon. H. B.	2nd Scots Gds.
Kilmain, Lord	Hardinge, Lt. Hon. E. C.	1st Irish Guards
Kinloss, Lord	D. S. O.	Rifle Brigade
Kinnaird, Lord	Mills, Sec. Lt. Hon. C. T. M. P.	Scots Guards
Knarsborough, Lord	Morris, Lt. Col. Hon. G. H.	3rd Rifle Brigade
Leconfield, Lord	Kinnaird, Capt. Master of	Lincoln Ye.
Lincolnshire, Marquess of	Nevesey, Capt.	R. Horse Gds.
Manners, Lord	Hon. C. H.	Scots Guards
Monck, Viscount	Wyndham, Capt. Hon. W. R.	Grenadier Guards
Northampton, Marquess of	Wyndham, Lt. Viscount	Coldstream Gds.
O'Neill, Lord	Compton, Sec. Lt. Lord E. D.	R. Horse Gds.
Penrhyn, Lord	O'Neill, Capt. Hon. A. E. B.	2nd Life Guards
Playfair, Lord	M. P.	Grenadier Gds.
Ranfurly, Earl of	Douglas-Pennant, Lt. Hon.	R. F. A.
Redesdale, Lord	Playfair, Capt. Hon. L. G. H.	Coldstream Gds.
Ribblesdale, Lord	Northland, Capt. Viscount	10th Hussars
Rosmead, Lord	Freeman-Mitford, Maj. Hon.	Hood Bn. R. N. D.
St. Davids, Lord	C. E. O.	8th Buffs
St. Levan, Lord	Lister, Lt. Hon. C. A. R. M.	R. Horse Gds.
Stamfordham, Lord	Robinson, Sec. Lt. Hon. H.	King's R. Rifles
Templeton, Viscount	Phillips, Capt. Hon. C. E. A.	King's R. Rifles
Tweeddale, Marquess of	St. Levan, Lt. Hon. W. L. R.	Irish Guards
Valentia, Viscount	Riggs, Capt. Hon. J. N. S.	16th Hussars
Westmeath, Earl of	Upton, Capt. Hon. E. M. E.	15th Hussars
Willingdon, Lord	Hay, Capt. Lord A.	Coldstream Gds.
Yarborough, Earl of	Worsley, Lt. Lord	R. Horse Gds.

To spend lavishly of life and limb and possessions, to offer themselves gladly and proudly on the altar of duty and loyalty to their King and their Motherland, as their tradition, birth and training and upbringing have taught them to do—that is a privilege of the peerage. Yes, I think they are of use.

Next Sunday the Duke of Manchester will write an entertaining article on "My Idea of a Perfect Dinner."



From Their Castles to the Trenches.  
Marquis of Tullibardine in the Trenches. Viscount Powerscourt at the Dardanelles.

Heroic Death of Captain the Hon. Lyon Playfair, Heir of Lord Playfair, One of the Forty-five Heirs to Peerages Who, According to the Duke, Have Given Their Lives for Their Country.

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